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384

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. 25X1A

TOPIC Soviet Troops in the Bittkau Training Area

EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1A

DATE OBTAINED

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1X

1. No changes in the occupation of Camp Bittkau (M 53/Y 83) were observed prior to 13 October. About half of the troops observed there wore black epaulets and the other half red-bordered black epaulets. There were no indications of a forthcoming departure of the troops. On the contrary, source believed that the troops were to stay in the camp, because the billeting area was further improved. A total of 12 earth bunkers were completed in the western section of the camp and fenced in in groups of three. Twelve large amphibious vehicles, and numerous trucks were seen in the open garages. Source observed a convoy of 40 trucks, including [REDACTED] leaving Camp Bittkau toward Tangerhuetten. [REDACTED] 25X1C
2. On 15 October, 100 to 120 pontoons, several piles of beams, boards, and large and small pneumatic rafts were lying on the Elbe River meadows near Polte. About 200 troops were engaged in miscellaneous work at the equipment dump. Several pneumatic rafts, including two with outboard motors, were seen on the Elbe River with 6 to 8 soldiers on each raft. Two field kitchens were in operation in a barn. Trucks C [REDACTED] 25X1C were parked at the barn. Six trucks coupled to 37-mm AA guns were lined up at a point about 500 meters northeast of Polte. One of the trucks was [REDACTED] The wooden shed about 1 km northeast of Polte was occupied by 1 officer and 8 engineer EM. A radio car with a 6-meter antenna stood beside the shed. Local residents said that the troops in Camp Bittkau numbered 600 to 800. A double line of heavy field wire ran from the camp to the aforementioned radio station. [REDACTED] 25X1C at the camp. Local residents said that, about 4 weeks previously, a bridge had been thrown across the river at Parey and was subsequently crossed by infantry, artillery, and AT artillery troops. The operation had been protected by AAA troops.
3. No Soviet troops were observed in Tangerhuetten on 15 October. Billeting equipment was loaded from trucks [REDACTED] into a boxcar 25X1C at the railroad station. Local residents said that several trains were loaded in Tangerhuetten with bridge-building equipment and pontoons at the end of September and allegedly dispatched to Magdeburg. *

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* [REDACTED] Comment. The report indicates no substantial change over the last report by another source who said that the training site would be occupied to capacity throughout October 1951, and would be partially occupied throughout the winter. [REDACTED]. Another source estimated the number of troops in the camp at 2,000 on 20 September 1951. However, the estimate in the present report is given more credence as it corresponds with previous information by the same and other sources. The convoy seen leaving the camp probably belongs to the 18th Meoz Div. The vehicles observed in camp traffic belong to the 18th Meoz Div, the 21st Mtz Rifle Div, headquarters engineer troops and another headquarters unit of the Third Shock Army, headquarters units of both the IX and IXA Mtz Rifle Corps and the 36th Pon Bridge Regt of the GOC.

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